

Serial No. 09/370,736
Proposed Claim Amendments

Page 1

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 10, wherein said alignment slot comprises a pair of elongated alignment slots.

10. (currently amended) A metal stud assembly adapted for constructing a metal wall frame ~~between a pair of channel members~~, comprising:

a stud; and

a channel member;

wherein the channel member includes a retainer; and

wherein the stud includes

a longitudinally-extending central column portion having a pair of opposite end portions;

a pair of side walls formed on opposite sides of said central column portion;

and

a first retainer;

and at least one an alignment slot that receives the retainer, formed in one of said end portions of said central column portion said stud for receiving the first retainer formed on one of said channel members;

wherein said alignment slot is formed in at least one of said end portions of said central column portion.

Serial No. 09/370,736
Proposed Claim Amendments

Page 2

11. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 10, further comprising an extender longitudinally slidably mounted within said stud.

12. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein said extender is formed with a push hole for pushing and sliding said extender within said stud.

13. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein the retainer is a first retainer, the metal stud assembly further comprising
further comprising a second retainer formed on one of said channel members
member,

wherein said first retainer has at least one slot formed therein for receiving that
receives the second retainer.

14. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 10, further comprising a spacer bar,

wherein the stud includes an indented portion formed in at least one of said side
walls for receiving a that receives the spacer bar.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

Serial No. 09/370,736
Proposed Claim Amendments

Page 3

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along the floor portion of said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member; and

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members through one said alignment slot, and is butted against a respective one of said stops;

wherein said stops are formed as upstanding tabs struck from said channel member.

17. (previously presented) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along the floor portion of said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said

Serial No. 09/370,736
Proposed Claim Amendments

Page 4

retainer members through one said alignment slot, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and

a series of longitudinally spaced crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side walls and locking said studs on said channel member.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs.

19. (previously presented) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along the floor portion of said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein[.]] that receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and

a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;

wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

Serial No. 09/370,736
Proposed Claim Amendments

Page 5

20. (previously presented) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

- a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;
- a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;
- a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;
- a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and
- a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;

wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, further comprising a series of longitudinally spaced crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side walls and locking said studs on said channel member.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, further comprising a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs.

Serial No. 09/370,736
Proposed Claim Amendments

Page 6

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

27. (previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

Application No. 09/370,736
Amendment

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A metal stud assembly adapted for constructing a metal wall frame, comprising:
a stud; and
a channel member;
wherein the channel member includes a retainer; and
wherein the stud includes
a longitudinally-extending central column portion having a pair of opposite end portions;
a pair of side walls formed on opposite sides of said central column portion;
and
an alignment slot that receives the retainer, formed in one of said end portions of said central column portion;
The stud of claim 10, wherein said alignment slot comprises a pair of elongated alignment slots.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 10, further comprising an extender longitudinally slidably mounted within said stud.

Application No. 09/370,736
Amendment

Page 3

12. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein said extender is formed with a push hole for pushing and sliding said extender within said stud.

13. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein the retainer is a first retainer, the metal stud assembly further comprising
further comprising a second retainer formed on one of said channel members
member,

wherein said first retainer has at least one slot formed therein for receiving that
receives the second retainer.

14. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim ~~10~~ 9, further comprising a spacer bar,
wherein the stud includes an indented portion formed in at least one of said side walls for receiving a that receives the spacer bar.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

Application No. 09/370,736
Amendment

Page 4

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and

a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;

wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 24, further comprising a series of longitudinally spaced crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side walls and locking said studs on said channel member.

22. (canceled)

Application No. 09/370,736
Amendment

Page 5

23. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~22~~ 24, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

24. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:
a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;
a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;
a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;
a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and
a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;
wherein said stops are formed as upstanding tabs struck from said channel member; and
~~The system of claim 22,~~ wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

Application No. 09/370,736
Amendment

Page 6

25. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~18~~ 26, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

26. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:
a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding
from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel
member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said
stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said
retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops;

a series of longitudinally spaced crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side
walls and locking said studs on said channel member; and

a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said
studs;

~~The system of claim 18,~~ wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

27. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding
from said floor portion;

Application No. 09/370,736
Amendment

Page 7

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;
a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel
member;
a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said
stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said
retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and
a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said
studs;
wherein each said stud comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar
comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets; and
~~The system of claim 19,~~ wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a
recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

28. (new) A metal stud assembly adapted for constructing a metal wall frame,
comprising:

- a stud;
- a channel member; and
- an extender longitudinally slidably mounted within said stud;
- wherein the channel member includes a retainer; and
- wherein the stud includes
 - a longitudinally-extending central column portion having a pair of opposite
end portions;
 - a pair of side walls formed on opposite sides of said central column portion;

Application No. 09/370,736
Amendment

Page 8

an alignment slot that receives the retainer, formed in one of said end portions of said central column portion.

29. (new) The stud assembly of claim 28, wherein said alignment slot comprises a pair of elongated alignment slots.

30. (new) The metal stud assembly of claim 28, wherein said extender is formed with a push hole for pushing and sliding said extender within said stud.

31. (new) The metal stud assembly of claim 28, wherein the retainer is a first retainer, the metal stud assembly further comprising
a second retainer formed on said channel member,
wherein said first retainer has at least one slot formed therein that receives the second retainer.

32. (new) The metal stud assembly of claim 28, further comprising a spacer bar,
wherein the stud includes an indented portion formed in at least one of said side walls that receives the spacer bar.

Application No. 09/370,736
Amendment

Page 9

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1, 1a, and 1b, replaces the original sheet. In Fig. 1, question marks as notations have been deleted.

Application No. 09/370,736
Amendment dated 07/01/2005
Reply to Office action dated 05/25/2005

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims

1-8. (canceled)

9-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim ~~10~~ 14, further comprising an extender longitudinally slidably mounted within said stud.

12. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein said extender is formed with a push hole for pushing and sliding said extender within said stud.

13. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein the retainer is a first retainer, the metal stud assembly further comprising
further comprising a second retainer formed on one of said channel members
member,

wherein said first retainer has at least one slot formed therein for receiving that
receives the second retainer.

14. (currently amended) A metal stud adapted for constructing a metal wall frame
between a pair of channel members, comprising: